THE GENUINE

ACCOUNT

OF THE

ADVENTURES

OF

Mr. *Richard Brown*, and his SISTER.

Both of *DORSETSHIRE*.

With ſeveral Remarkable occurences which very lately happened, and were delivered to the Author, by a Perſon who was Witneſs of the whole Truth.

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1770)

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OF
Mr. Richard Dawes
and his Sister

BRITISH MUSEUM

LONDON:
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THE GENUINE ACCOUNT OF THE ADVENTURES

Of Mr. *Richard Brown*, and his SISTER.

THE ſubject of the following Sheets was a Gentleman of a good Eſtate near *Dorſetſhire*. Having only one Son, and a Daughter, the Son, which is often the Caſe, proved to be the Fathers Darling, who took care to beſtow a good Education on him, had Maſter *Richard* been of a Capacity to have receiv'd it; the old Gentleman's intention was to qualify his Boy for a Councellor: But when Maſter came from the *Univerſity*, he was as fit to begin going to School, as the firſt Hour he ſet out thither: However, the young Squire was come from *Oxford*, and that was ſufficient to recommend him to his Father for a Man of Senſe, and upon every occaſion *Richard* was conſulted, and what ever he ſaid, was right in the old Man's Opinion: It happened about this Time, the

Mother broke one of her Legs, occasioned by a fall from her Horſe, which put a period to her Life, a ſhort Time before ſhe expired ſhe called her Husband to her, and begged him to be kind to poor *Polly*, tho' ſhe was very ſenſible his whole Soul was wrapt up in the Boy, yet ſhe thought it not improper to tell him that the Girl had an equal claim to her Fortune and Affection; the old Man replyed he knew no difference for his part, and if he did make any for the time to come, he would aſſure her, *Polly* ſhould meet with the greateſt ſhare of his Favour, the poor Woman with Tears in her Eyes took a Melancholy leave of her Husband and Children, and in a few Minutes after expir'd.

As ſoon as the Funeral Ceremony was over, Miſs *Polly* finding no alteration began to conſider, if her Father turn'd her out of Doors which ſhe much feared would be the caſe what courſe to take, as ſhe never had been bred to any ſort of Buſineſs, nor was her Education any Thing beyond Reading and Writing, ſo that it was hard to determine what ſhe could undertake, but a few Hours convinced her ſhe was to ſtay no longer there, for the next Morning at Breakfaſt Mr. *Brown*, for that was the old Gentleman's Name, declared to his Daughter his Mind; telling her 'twould be out of his Power to give her a Fortune, therefore he would adviſe her to ſeek out for a Place, as he was certain ſhe was capable to undertake any Thing in that Sphere of Life: However ſaid he, my Girl make yourſelf as eaſy as you can, for when *Dick* is ſet-

tled

tled in the World which won't be long before he will I dare say, for I have a Woman of Fortune in my Eye for him, and then his Wife may take you to be her Houſekeeper, which will be no bad thing I aſſure you Child, and in the mean Time I have an Acquaintance that lives in *Cheapſide* that may be of Service to you; and I'll give you five Guineas to bear your expences to *London*, and you know the Waggon ſetts out to-morrow, ſo I'd have you go in that as it is the cheapeſt way of travelling, and (d'ye hear Miſs *Polly*) when you are got into a Place, you may let *Dick* and I hear from you, for I ſhan't think much of paying for a Letter, no more wou'd not *Richard* I'll anſwer for that, what ſay you *Richard*. No reply'd *Richard*, provided ſhe don't trouble us too often, for you muſt know Father, that all the Money I give the Poſt-man I look upon as thrown away, well ſaid *Richard* cries the old Man, I'll warrant thou will make a good Husband and not throw away thy Wives Money upon wenches, little imagining that his Son *Richard* at the ſame time had an engagement with a Coblers Daughter in the Neighbourhood, and indeed ſhe was very near bringing him a Son into the World, but we ſhall leave them for a while and return to Miſs *Polly*, who by this time was ſetting out for *London*, with a Heart full of Grief ſhe took leave of her Father and Brother, telling them ſhe would do the beſt in her Power to get a ſupport, her Father told her, he made no doubt but ſhe wou'd find ways enough to live in Town, but I'd have you be as honeſt as you can, and if I come to *London* I'll

find

find you out, ſo without further Ceremony he left her.

As there happened to be no other Paſſengers but herſelf, ſhe had Time to reflect on her unhappy ſituation. When the Waggon came to *Holbourn-Bridge*, Miſs as ſhe got out, was obſerved by a Gentleman of about fifty Years of Age, who at the ſame time was getting out of a Stage Coach, and ſeeing the Girl alone, took an opportunity to follow her into the Inn; where he asked her in a very friendly manner if ſhe was come to ſtay any time in Town, what Friends ſhe had here and how ſhe came to be alone, ſhe very frankly told him who ſhe was, and that as her Mother was Dead ſhe was forced to be a Servant, that ſhe had no Friend in Town, only as her Father had given her a Letter to a Perſon of his Acquaintance, ſhe hoped from that the Gentleman would prove of ſome Service to her; he beg'd the Favour of her to let him know who the Letter was directed to, on which ſhe told him to Mr. *Green*, a Mercer in *Cheapſide*, the Gentleman could not help ſmiling to hear himſelf mention'd, and indeed was not at all diſpleas'd at it, he told Miſs if ſhe pleaſed he would Conduct her to the Gentleman's Houſe, as he was perfectly well acquainted with him, and farther added, that he could aſſure her of the Gentleman's Friendſhip, at which Miſs *Brown* ſeemed very well pleaſed, ſo immediately a Hackney Coach was called, and away Mr *Green* takes his Lady, ordering the Coach to a *Bagnio*, where poor Miſs was ſoon conveyed

vey'd into a Bed-chamber, and found herſelf oblig'd to grant every Favour he was pleaſed to ask.

When the Morning appeared ſhe was like a diſtracted Creature, and ſeveral times had thoughts of putting an End to her Life. Soon as Breakfaſt was over her Gallant preſented her with five Guineas, and told her he ſhould leave her in the care of the Gentlewoman of the Houſe, and ſhould beg of her to be kind to her 'till he came again, which he believed would be in four or five Days, ſo took leave and went away.

As ſoon as he was gone, Miſs *Brown* ſent for the old Lady up Stairs, and thinking to make her her Friend, told her ſhe ſhould give her a couple of Guineas, if ſhe would tell her of a private Houſe that ſhe ſhould Lodge in for the ſpace of a Week, 'till ſhe could provide herſelf with a Service; no no reply'd the old Bawd, Child you are better where you are, you ſee the Gentleman has given you as much for one Nights Lodging, as you could get in Service for a whole Year. Miſs endeavour'd by entreaty to get her Liberty but to no Purpoſe, for the old Lady aſſured her as the Gentleman has put you in my Care I'll do to the utmoſt of my Power to prompote you, but Child as to letting you go from me I ſhould look upon it as a breach of Truſt, beſide I muſt conſequently incur the Gentleman's diſpleaſure, and I am ſure he is your Friend Child and for your ſake I would not anger him, ſo begging her to content herſelf there, ſhe turned out of

the

the Room and left the young Lady in ten times more Grief than she was before.

About Dinnertime she received News to prepare herself to dine below, for the old Lady had some Company coming who desir'd to see her, so she had sent her up a handsome Sack that she may not appear ridiculous, upon which she dres's'd herself tho' but awkwardly yet with the agreeableness of her Person, and being but just come to Town was sufficient to recommend her. As soon as Dinner was serv'd up Miss was sent for down, the young Gentleman at first sight started, as if he had seen a Ghost: Miss fainted away, and was oblig'd to be carried up Stairs and put to Bed by the old Lady and her Servants: As soon as she was safe in Bed, the old Woman returned to her Guest, and beg'd his pardon for the Disappointment, but told him the Lady had not been used to Company, which was the Occasion of that illness she suppos'd; however if he would sit down a little she dare to say the Lady would be recover'd enough to see him: He told her it did not much signify he was sorry he put the young Lady to so much confusion, gave the old Bawd something for her Trouble, and told her he should call again the next Day.

By this time Miss was recover'd out of her Swoon and beg'd to see the Gentleman, but being informed by the old Lady that he was gone, she cried out that she was ruined for ever, (for said she) that Man is my Brother, tho' not much my Friend,

and

and ſhould he, as I much fear let my Father know of being in this Place, I muſt never ſee his Face more: In this Place replied the old Woman, I don't know what you mean, I know nothing that has happened to you here, but what might have happen'd in any other Place, you came hither to go to B—d with a Gentleman, and by your own conſent, ſo don't give yourſelf any impertinent airs to me, for conſider you are now in my Houſe, and even the Cloaths you wear are mine, for which you ſhall pay dearly Madam, if you don't comply with my requeſt in every thing; therefore pray get yourſelf prepar'd to receive a viſit this Evening, upon this ſhe left the Room. Poor Miſs waited with a very uneaſy mind, every Moment expecting her Summons; but fate ſo ordered it, that the Nobleman did not call that Night, but deferred his Appointment till the next Evening: Miſs in the mean while conſidered with herſelf what ſhe was to do, and remembering that the Gentleman who brought her hither had promiſed to ſee her again in a few Days, and ſhe hoped he would be there before any thing offer'd to make her more unhappy than ſhe was before.

She continued in this anxiety all the next Day, but when Evening came ſhe had the Mortification to receive orders for dreſſing herſelf for that her admirer would be there in half an Hour; as ſhe knew no way to reſiſt ſhe immediately prepared herſelf. She was no ſooner dreſſed, then a young Gentleman was introduced to her, whoſe Face ſhe

had never ſeen before; he obſerving the Lady to look very Melancholly, in a free manner which is cuſtomary to thoſe ſort of Ladies which he conceived her to be, asked he what was the matter, and why ſhe was ſo low in Spirits, telling her if ſhe wanted Money he would make her a preſent of five Guineas, which her Governeſs (as he pleas'd to call her) ſhould know nothing of: She modeſtly thanked him for the offer, but told him her Diſtreſs was not occaſioned by want of Money, but from a motive which concerned her more nearly: Pooh cries he I ſuppoſe you have been in Love with ſome young Fellow or other, and that I imagine was the cauſe of your coming to this Place, no reply'd the Lady, with Tears trickling down her Cheeks, if you have Patience Sir but to hear my Melancholly Story, I'll give you a true Account of myſelf and who I am, this rais'd the Nobleman's curioſity, and as he obſerv'd her diſconſolate look, could not help thinking her quite agreeable, ſo beg'd her to begin her Story which ſhe did, and told him from the begining of her Sorrows to that Hour of all that had happened, he told her he had only one requeſt to make to her, and if ſhe granted that, ſhe may perhaps find her Account in it, which was only to aſſure him of a certainty whither the Man who brought her thither, was the only Perſon with whom ſhe ever had any connection. She anſwered yes he was the firſt, and ſhe hoped would be the only one, for as to continue in that Miſerable ſituation he had left her in, ſhe wou'd die firſt: However, I fear Sir I have tir'd your Patience ſo ſhall ſay no more

but

but hope what ever intention you came here upon, that my ſad Narration will convince you that I am no Proſtitute, no reply'd the Nobleman, but Child if you have ſo great an averſion to being in this way of Life, why don't you endeavour to get out of it, indeed Sir anſwered ſhe, I have intreated the Gentlewoman who keeps this Houſe to let me go, but all to no purpoſe, (well well anſwer'd he) my dear if you'll rely on my Friendſhip, you ſhall ſoon be convinced that I'll remove you from this Houſe, upon which he rang the Bell and ordered the Servant who attended the Room to deſire his Miſtreſs to walk up, the old Lady ſoon enter'd the Room, where ſhe found Miſs had been in Tears, and ſeeing the Gentleman full of concern, deſir'd to be acquainted with the Cauſe, which the Nobleman ſoon made her acquainted of, by telling her that the Lady had informed him who ſhe was and how ſhe came to be there, and as he thought her Caſe rather deſerved to be pity'd than condemn'd, he ſhould think it but juſt if ſhe would condeſcend to give her her Liberty: The old Lady was quite chagreen'd at hearing this, as ſhe thought Miſs might be of advantage to her if ſhe ſtay'd in her Houſe, ſo could not immediately reſolve upon an Anſwer, which the Gentleman obſerving, told her ſhe had no need for any conſideration, for he ſhould inſiſt on her letting the Lady go, and what was more he intended to take her away with him, for ſaid he you know who I am, and were you to deny me I ſhould take care to make you repent the refuſal, as to the young Lady if ſhe is any thing indebted to you I'll

pay it, well well, (ſaid the old Woman) ſince I find your Lordſhip is determin'd to have her you may take her with you; but my Lord you'll repent your Bargain; and, if when the Gentleman comes who brought her hither ſhould demand Satisfaction from me, I ſhall immediately refer him to your Lordſhip, mighty well ſaid my Lord: So gave the old Bawd ten Guineas, order'd a Coach to the door handed Miſs into it, and away they went and left the old Woman to Contemplate on the Diſappointment.

Miſs *Brown* went out of the Houſe full of Joy, though ſhe could not tell how to diſpoſe of herſelf or which way to get her Bread, but theſe doubts was ſoon removed, for the Nobleman aſſured her ſhe ſhould not find any Diſtreſs, for he intended to take her home to ſup at his Houſe, and by that time Supper was over there ſhould be a genteel Lodging provided for her, nor ſhould any thing be wanting that his Fortune could purchaſe: This put Miſs a little in Spirits, but when ſhe reflected on the return he would require for all thoſe Favours which he conferred upon her, ſhe could not help fetching a deep ſigh very often, but Supper was no ſooner over and a Bottle of Wine drank, then his own Coach was ordered to carry her to a Lodging he had deſired to be got for her in the mean time; ſo away ſhe went with him to accompany her, who when he had ſeen her Apartment took a genteel leave of her for that Evening,

Next

Next Morning early he made her a visit, and presented her with a couple of Bank Notes which amounted to One Hundred Pound, begging her to accept that as a small Token of his Friendship drank a couple of Dishes of Coffee with her, so took his leave and returned home, where he no sooner arriv'd than his Servant gave him a Letter, which upon reading he found it came from Mr. *Green*, who had been to visit the young Lady, but on finding his Disappointment and being inform'd by the old Woman who had her, he in rage wrote his Lordship a Challenge; my Lord directly order'd a Chair and goes to Miss *Brown*, to let her know of the Affair, and that the very Man who ought to have stood her Friend, was the Person to whom she owed her Ruin: However said my Lord I'll revenge your Cause, for to-morrow Morning I'll meet him at the Place he has appointed and there try my Fate. Miss *Brown* would have intreated his Lordship on her Knees not to expose himself to needless dangers on her account, but she found all Intreaties was ineffectual for my Lord was bent, he told her on revenging the cause of an injur'd Person, and particularly one who had made so great an impression on his Heart; Miss was not at all displeased at hearing these last Words, as she had liked his Person from the first Moment she saw him, and the more so as he proved so great a Friend to her. However he left her, telling her the next time he saw her he hoped to acquaint her that he had conquered, and accordingly next Morning early the two Gentlemen met at the place appointed; Mr. *Green* at-

first

firſt thought to have affrighten'd my Lord by telling him he expected Satisfaction for the injury he had done him, upon which my Lord reply'd he was ready to give him the Satisfaction he demanded in his Letter, upon which they drew their Swords, and his Lordſhip being the beſt Man, and more uſed to the Sword than *Green* was, in two or three Thruſts run Mr. *Green* through the Arm: Immediately a Chair was call'd and he was carried home, when the Surgeon ſaw it he fear'd the Wound would prove Mortal. His Lordſhip went home and directly ordered his Coach to Miſs *Brown*'s, who was all the Morning in the greateſt anxity a Woman could poſſibly undergo, but as ſoon as ſhe was inform'd my Lord had ſent for her, ſhe got into the Coach without taking time to dreſs herſelf, went to his Lordſhip, who told her all that had happened, farther adding, that he thought *Green* a dead Man, while they was diſcourſing on this Affair, a Porter knocked at the Door with a Letter, which contained theſe Words.

My Lord,

As 'tis the requeſt of a dying Man, I hope you'll not refuſe me, only the ſight of the Injured Miſs Brown, *which if you will accompany her to me, I ſhall think the Obligation double, that I may have her Forgiveneſs before I Die.*

Yours, GREEN.

My Lord read the Letter to Miſs *Brown*, who readily conſented to go: So they ſet out with all

ſpeed

ſpeed; they ſoon came to *Cheapſide*, where they found Mr. *Green* juſt alive, as ſoon as they entered the Room he took my Lord by the Hand, and told him that what he ſuffer'd was his own ſeeking, ſo could blame no one but himſelf, but ſaid he as to this Lady if ſhe will forgive me for the injury I've done her I can die in Peace: She told him ſhe was ſorry the Misfortune ever happen'd but it was paſt recalling, and as he was a dying Man ſhe forgave him with all her Heart, upon which he order'd a Servant to open his Beaurow and give him ſome Papers which lay there, and taking from thence in Bank Notes which amounted to about Eight Hundred Pound offer'd them to the Lady, but his Lordſhip telling him there was no Occaſion for that as he had Fortune ſufficient in his Power both the Lady and himſelf, which if ſhe pleaſed ſhould be honourably hers the next Day, ſo beg'd he would diſtribute it to thoſe who ſtood in greater need of it, ſo taking leave of him they went away and he expir'd ſoon after.

As my Lord and Miſs, was in the Coach, he acquainted her that his deſign was to marry her, and if ſhe had no objection to it he would get a Licence that Night and fix the next Day for their Wedding, accordingly a Clergyman was ſent for to Miſs *Brown*'s Lodging, where he perform'd the Ceremony. As ſoon as they were Married he took his Lady down to his Country Houſe near *Reading* in *Berkſhire*, where we ſhall leave the young Couple and return to *Richard*, who, when he had ſeen his

Siſter

Sister in ſo ſtrange a ſituation in Town, thought the beſt thing he could do, was to haſten home to his Father, which he did as faſt as a Stage Coach could carry him, the old Man was ſurpriz'd at *Richard* returning ſo ſoon from *London*, but before he could aſk the Cauſe, *Richard* Bauls out, Lord Father where do you think I've ſeen our *Polly*; nay, cried the Father I don't know, why ſaid *Richard*, you know Father 'tis always the Faſhion for we young Fellows when we come to Town, to endeavour at finding out a pretty Girl, ſo I went to a Bawdy houſe, and the old Bawd told me ſhe had a nice tit bit, and if I would give her a Sum I ſhould have a ſight of her, upon which we agreed. and preſently who ſhould come down but *Polly*, dreſs'd in one of your fine Sacks, ſo upon ſeeing me ſhe fell dead, and the Servants took her up Stairs in their Arms: So I made the beſt of my way home to let you know what a fine Daughter you have got. Hah! ſaid the old Man, I always thought ſhe would be a Scandal to me, ſo fetch me a Lawyer *Richard* and i'll cut her off with a Shilling, and thou my Boy ſhall enjoy every Farthing I am worth in the World, accordingly the Will was made, and *Richard* left ſole Heir to every Thing, but the old Gentleman (very fortunately for his Son) was ſeized with a violent Fever in two or three Days after of which he expir'd.

Mr. *Richard* was then left in full Poſſeſſion of eight Hundred Pounds a Year, beſides a Houſe well ſtor'd with good tho' old Faſhion Furniture;

and

and the firſt thing he did was to preſent his Dorey with part of his Mothers wearing Apparel, telling her he would ſettle a hundred a Year on her if ſhe would come to *London* and live with him, the Girl thought it a fine offer, ſo made no ſcruple of telling it to her Mother, and likewiſe gave her ſome hints of her being with Child by him, the Mother being an artful ſort of a Woman pretended to be very angry and turn'd her Daughter out of Doors, and calling for her Husband out of the Shop communicated the Story to him, ſo out ſets he to find out the young 'Squire, who as the Cobler came to the Door was juſt mounting his Horſe, but being informed by Mr. *Smith*, (which was the Cobler's Name) that he had ſomething to ſay to him on particular buſineſs, he turned his Horſe into the Stable and asked Mr. *Smith* into his Parlour, who put on a very ſtern air and told Mr. *Brown*, that he underſtood he had debauched his Girl, and he expected him to make her his lawful Wife, Mr. *Brown* looked quite ſilly at Mr. *Smith*, and ſaid he was very ſorry it ſhould happen ſo for *Molly's* ſake, but if they would let her go to *London* to Lye in he would find Money to pay for her being there, and that ſaid he is as much as you can expect: Expect ſaid the old Man, zounds what d'ye mean by that, what do you think becauſe you have a Fortune that my Daughter is not ſo good as you; look'y Sir, ſhe has been good enough to be your Whore, and I think her good enough to be your Wife, ſo give me your Anſwer directly. Well well ſaid *Richard*, don't make yourſelf and

me uneaſy about it, for rather than the Girl ſhould be call'd after for a Whore I'd marry her to be ſure, for I muſt needs ſay I do love *Moll* well enough too, but mind this, ſhe muſt be ready to go to Church to-morrow Morning then, for I would not have her brought to Bed firſt, becauſe they ſhan't call the Child a Baſtard, ſo Father that is to come let you and I drink a Bottle together, nor did either of them get out of their Chairs till they had finiſh'd half a dozen of Port, which the Cobler often ſmack'd his Chops at as being a Liquor he ſeldom come at, by this time they could ſcarce ſee each other, and the Cobler beginning to tune up his Voice, ſoon ſung the 'Squire to ſleep, who who remain'd ſo till Day-ligh, by which time the Cobler found his way home to inform his Daughter that he and the 'Squire had fixed that her Wedding Day, ſo *Molly* you muſt dreſs yourſelf as fine as you can, pet on your laſt new Gown d'ye hear Child, and beſure you behave yourſelf well that I may not be aſham'd of you, for I deſign to go and ſee you Married, ſo indeed did many others, for the News ſpread over the Place, and when the Bride came to Church there were ſcarce room for her to get in, however the Crowd that was there was very well diverted at ſight of the 'Squire, and his Lady whom they expected would fall to pieces before ſhe got home.

At the end of three Weeks ſhe brought Mr. *Brown* a Son, who died at a Fortnight old, the 'Squire took his Son's Death ſo much to Heart that he

he reſolved to ſtay no longer in the Country: So with his Lady as ſoon as ſhe was able ſet out for *London*; when he ariv'd in Town, the firſt thing he did was to take a large Houſe ready Furnith'd, hir'd half a dozen Servants extraordinary, and beſpoke a new Coach, then dreſſ'd his Wife out like a Dutcheſs, tho' ſhe became a plain ſtuff Gown much better than all he had provided for her, however he thought it very neceſſary to get him a Miſtreſs, ſo what with her Extravagance and his own, in four Years time he was oblig'd to ſell both Coach and Horſes, diſcharge his Houſe and Miſtreſs, ſend his Lady home to her Father and live himſelf by his Wits, which indeed were but ſlender, yet as People is apt to be partial to themſelves ſo that was the Caſe of our Hero; who imagin'd himſelf to be Maſter of more Senſe than one half of the Common Council put together, and now were the time to make trial of his Conduct.

One Day as he was taking a walk in Bloomſbury Fields, he paſſed ſeveral times by a well dreſs'd Youth who ſeemed to appear very Melancholy, at length asking him what was o'Clock, the Stranger reply'd he did not know, for Sir ſaid he, ſince my Misfortunes have fallen ſo heavy, I ſcarce know one Day from another, well then ſaid Mr. *Brown* you and I may ſhake Hands, for I am full as unfortunate as yourſelf, and if it is agreeable to you Sir we'll go in and drink a Bottle together; it was concluded and in they went to the next Tavern, where after they had ſet for a couple of

Hours, and finding the Liquor begin to operate they ſoon grew better acquainted, and Mr. *Brown* was a Man who had very little Guard on himſelf, he ſoon gave the other to underſtand he had a great mind to take a Piſtol and ſo maintain himſelf like a Gentleman, by every Moment hazarding his Life; the other whoſe name was *Coleman*, ſoon came into the Scheme, and next Day was appointed for Mr. *Brown* to come to *Coleman*'s Lodging, to ſettle what Road they ſhould take, it was ſoon agreed for them to go towards *Oxfordſhire* for their firſt Stage.

In a few Days they were Furniſhed with every thing neceſſary for their undertaking. and Fortune ſo far favour'd them, that in leſs than four and twenty Hours, they Committed two Robberies and got off clear, the Booty they had taken amounted to upwards of a hundred Pound, beſide a couple of Watches which was equally divid betwixt 'em, ſo they went home contented to live on what they had got for ſome Days, till another opportunity offer'd.

Next Evening as Mr. *Brown* was taking a walk acroſs St. *James*'s Square, he obſerved a Porter knocking at a Door with a Letter in his Hand, and hearing the Servant ſay that my Lord was out of Town, and none of the Family at home but herſelf, he thought that a very convenient time for *Coleman* and him to make a viſit there; upon which he haſtens home and order'd his Partner to prepare

for

for he believed they ſhould do Buſineſs before Morning, accordingly before two o'Clock they found means to get into the Houſe, where they ſecured a large quantity of Plate and Jewells, to the Value of five Hundred Pounds the Maid whom they had oblig'd to ſhow them where all the valuable Things were put, ſtood trembling by them, 'till they had pack'd it up fit for Carriage, and then made her promiſe upon Oath not to ſay any thing of it under Twenty Four Hours.

As ſoon as the Maid had let them out of the Door, ſhe ran to a Neighbours Houſe and acquainted the Servants of the Affair, who as they were not in Bed ſoon purſued the Villains, and overtook them, but Mr. *Brown* being pretty nimble and with the aſſiſtance of Darkneſs made his Eſcape, while *Coleman* was ſeiz'd, and with the help of the Watchmen carried to the Watchouſe till Morning. When he was taken before a Juſtice of the Peace, and as part of the Jewells was found upon him he was committed to Newgate, a Meſſenger was immediately diſpatched to let his Lordſhip know what had happen'd, my Lord directly ſet out for *London*, where he no ſooner heard the Story, than he went to pay a viſit to *Coleman*, and endeavour to get from him who was his Accomplice, the Priſoner told him 'twas in vain to ask him any Queſtions concerning that, for unleſs his Friend uſed him ill, he never would tell his Name nor Place of Abode: *Coleman* waited with great impatience for ſeveral Days, expecting to ſee or hear from his Friend, but finding

no

no intelligence from his Companion, *Coleman* wrote to my Lord as follows.

My Lord,

The repeated Misfortunes and an evil Counſellor have brought me to the Sorrow I now ſuffer, and the ſhame I apprehend I muſt ſoon undergo for the Crimes I have committed, yet had he been as faithful in Friendſhip as each avow'd to the other at our firſt ſetting forward on this unjuſt expedition, I would never have given him up to the cenſor of the Law, but have died well ſatisfied that I had atton'd for my Guilt and ſaved my Friend, but as he has forfeited that Title in my unhappy Circumſtance, I think I may be juſtified in giving him up like a Villain, and if your Lordſhip pleaſes to come or ſend you ſhall know farther, as I don't chuſe to write who he is but will atteſt it upon Oath, I am tho' an unhappy Gentleman, and hope in this point the World won't ſay I have acted contrary to that Character. tho' I have cruelly diſgrac'd it in others. I am your Lordſhip's moſt devoted and Afflicted humble Servant.

COLEMAN

My Lord upon receiving this took with him a couple of Gentlemen and went to the Priſoner, whom he found ſitting in a very Melancholy poſture my Lord told him he had received his Letter, and was come to have farther intelligence of his pretended Friend, that you ſhall reply'd *Colsman*, and upon which his Lordſhip took Oath in the preſence

ſence of his Friends, by which to his great confuſion and ſurprize he found was his Lady's Brother; in tenderneſs to her, he immediately reſolved as Mr *Coleman* had not been brought to Trial to ſink the Evidence, and enjoyn'd him as no one ſhould appear againſt him, never to mention Mr. *Brown*'s Name to any Mortal breathing, telling him he had very particular Reaſons which he ſhould know hereafter, and to encourage him to forget that Wicked courſe of Life, promiſed that when he was at Liberty, that he wou'd procure him a Place of a Hundred a Year in the Government, and at the ſame time gave him Twenty Guineas to ſupport him during his Confinement: Mr. *Coleman* was very thankfull for his Lordſhips bounty and Clemency, and promiſed that his good deſign ſhou'd be anſwer'd with the deſir'd effect, on this they parted.

Mr *Coleman* was obſerv'd by the People in *Newgate* to be more chearful, and ſeem'd in a very ſhort time to have entirely forgot the Danger they apprehended him ſtill to be in when his Trial ſhould come on. However he was call'd down to the *Old Bailey*, and no Evidence appearing the Court Acquitted him. His firſt viſit was to his Lordſhip, to pay his grateſull Acknowledgment for the Favours he had confer'd on him, my Lord ordered him to call on him in a Day or two, for as ſoon as any Place preſented itſelf into his Gift he ſhould enjoy it, and likewiſe deſired him if he could ſee *Brown* that he would immediately let him know

where

where he was to be found, *Coleman* promiſed that he would ſo took his leave.

The next Day as he was going acroſs St. *James's* Church-yard, he heard a Voice which he thought he knew call to him out of the Round-houſe, he immediately goes in, and to his great ſurprize found it to be his Friend *Brown*, who ſoon inform'd him he was there only for being a little in Liquor and breeding a Riot in the Street the Night before, but was very deſirous to know how *Coleman* got his Liberty, thro' good Fortune reply'd *Coleman*, for had I had no better friends than you I might have lain there to periſh, *Brown* fell on his Knees and beg'd his Pardon, telling him as he now had his Freedom, it might be in his Power to help him to his, ay reply'd the other, had you behaved like a Friend to me perhaps it might, but as it is, I have no farther concern with you, ſo giving him half a Crown to Drink, and wiſhing him in a better Place, he went away and left *Brown* without any hopes of Aſſiſtance from his Friendſhip: However he took the firſt Opportunity of acquainting his Lordſhip where Mr. *Brown* was, my Lord directly ſent a Friend of his to get Mr. *Brown* his Liberty, and to inſiſt on his coming with him to the *Hoop* Tavern, in *Coventry Street*.

My Lord waited to ſee him; *Brown* no ſooner entered the Room, than my Lord told him he was not unacquainted with the wicked courſe of Life, nor of his ingratitude to the young Gentleman whom

whom he drew into the ſame Villainous Actions, and further added, that he was alſo ſenſible of his Barbarity to his Siſter, whom he had eſpouſed. *Brown* little dreamt of her being ſo highly honoured and that he was brought before his Brother in law, but when my Lord told him he was the Perſon whoſe Houſe he had broke open, he then began to look upon himſelf as a dead Man, which would infallibly have been the Caſe had not my Lord Married his Siſter, Mr. *Coleman* perceiving *Brown* under too great a confuſion to ſay any thing to mitigate the Sentance he dreaded, very good naturdly ſpoke in his behalf, and upon *Brown*'s abſolute Confeſſion of his Errors, and a full promiſe to abjure for ever, the matter was huſh'd up, and Mr. *Brown* was ſent Abroad with his Family, where Experience and Reflection brought him to a right way of thinking, and my Lord ſettled a ſmall Income which he improved in Trading, and turn'd out a better œconomiſt than the former Part of his Life gave the leaſt juſtification of, Mr. *Coleman* behaved ſo well, that thro' my Lord's intereſt he came to great Preferment, and married in a few Years to a Lady of Diſtinction with a very large Fortune.

This young Gentleman happily meeting with a Friend in the beginning of his Crimes which nipt 'em in their Bud, now proves an honour to his Country, which had not Providence been ſo deeply concerned in his Favour might have for a Time been a detriment to ſome part of it, and needs a ſhameful End of a ſcandalous Life, but where

the Heart is not corrupted thro' Inclination to vice, 'tis poſſible to reclaim a Mind whom neceſſity alone excited to Follies a generous Soul muſt naturally abhor.

Round about our Coal Fire: Or, Chriſtmas Entertainment of Mirth and Jollity, Chriſtmas Gambols, Eating, Drinking, Kiſſing, and other Diverſions of the Holidays.

FIRST acknowledging the Sacredneſs of the Holy Time of *Chriſtmas*, I proceed to ſet forth the Rejoicing, which are generally made at that great Feſtival.

You muſt underſtand, good People, that the manner of Celebrating this great Courſe of Holydays is vaſtly different now to what it was in former Days: There was once upon a Time Hoſpitality in the Land; an *Engliſh* Gentleman at the opening of the great Day, had all his Tenants and Neighbours enter'd his Hall by Day-break, the Strong Beer was broach'd, and the Black-jacks went plentifully about with Toaſt, Sugar, Nutmeg and Cheſhire Cheeſe; the Rooms were embower'd with Holly, Ivy, Cyprus, Bays, Laurel, and Miſsleto, and a bouncing *Chriſtmas* Log in the Chimney glowing like the Cheeks of a Country Milk-maid; then was the Pewter as bright as *Clarinda*,

rinda, and every bit of Braſs as poliſhed as the moſt refined Gentleman; the Servants were then running here and there, with merry Hearts and jolly Countenances, every one was buſy in welcoming of Gueſts, and look'd as ſnug as new lick'd Puppies; the Laſſes were as blith and buxom as the Maids in good Queen *Beſs*'s Days, when they eat Sir-Loins of Roaſt Beef for Breakfaſt; *Peg* would ſcuttle about to make a Toaſt for *John*, while *Tom* runs harum ſcarum to draw a Jug of Ale for *Margery*: Gaffer *Spriggins* was bid thrice welcome by the Squire, and Goody *Gooſe* did not fail of a ſmacking Buſs from his Worſhip in memory of paſt Favours, while his Son and Heir was mouſling and touſing the blooming Beauties of the Tenants Daughters: In a Word the Spirit of Generoſity ran thro' the whole Houſe.

In theſe times all the Spits were ſparkling, the *Hackin* muſt be boil'd by Day break, or elſe two young Men took the Maiden by the Arms and ran her round the Market-place, till ſhe was aſham'd of her Lazineſs. And what was worſe than this, ſhe muſt not play with the young Fellows that Day, but ſtand neuter, like a Girl in a Winding Sheet at a Church door for a Baſtard Child.

But now let us enquire a little farther to arrive at the Senſe of the Times? this great Feſtival was in former Times kept with ſo much Freedom and Openneſs of Heart, that every one in the Country where a Gentleman reſided, poſſeſſed at leaſt a Day

of Pleaſure in the *Chriſtmas* Holydays; the Tables were all ſpread from the firſt to the laſt, the Sir-Loins of Beef, the Minc'd Pies, the Plumb Porridge, the Capons, Turkies, Geeſe, and Plumb Puddings, were brought upon the Board; and all thoſe who had ſharp Stomachs and ſharp Knives eat heartily and were welcome, which gave riſe to the Proverb.

Merry in the Hall when Beards wag all.

There were then Turnſpits employed, who by the Time Dinner was over, would look as black and greeſy as a Welch Porridge Pot, but the Jacks have ſince turn'd them out of Doors. The Geeſe which uſed to be fatted for the honeſt Neighbours, have been of late ſent to *London*, and the Quills made into Pens to convey away the Landlord's Eſtate; the Sheep are drove away to raiſe Money to anſwer the Loſs at a Game at Dice or Cards, and their Skins made into Parchment, for Deeds and Indentures; nay, even the poor innocent Bee who was uſed to pay its Tribute to the Lord once a Year at leaſt in good Metheglin, for the Entertainment of the Gueſts, and it's Wax converted into beneficial Plaiſters for ſick Neighbours, is now uſed for the Sealing of Deeds to his Diſadvantage.

But give me the Man *who has a good Heart in his Belly*, and has Spirit enough to keep up the old way of Hospitality, feeds his People till they are

as

as plump as Patridges, and as fat as Porpoiſes, that every Servant may appear as Jolly as the late Biſhop of *Wincheſter*'s Porter at *Chealſea*; and not keep a parcel of ſneeking Wretches about them, whoſe Ribs are as apparent as thoſe of a Gridiron. What an honour it is to a Maſter to hear the Folks about him praiſing his Generoſity! And ſuch a Character is a help to him ſometimes at an Election; for Servants who are kept under a good natur'd Direction muſt love their Maſter, and make the Country Folks admire him more from their Praiſes of him, for there is always one or the other of them ſetting forth his goodneſs; it makes the greater impreſſion on thoſe who never ſaw him, or ever had been at his Houſe.

When I ſpeak this I recollect the Fable of the Mouſe, who helped the Lion out of the Toil he was caught in, and likewiſe the common Opinion that a Mouſe may deſtroy an Elephant; beſide an other Obſervation; that a Mouſe may creep where an Elephant cannot go, and do good when ſome People leaſt expect it.

Then let all your Folks live briskly, and at ſuch a Time of Rejoicing enjoy the Benefit of good Beef and Pudding, let the ſtrong Beer be unlock'd, and let the Piper play,

O'er the Hills and far away.

And

And alſo, *Strike up Drowſy Gut Scrapers,*
Gallants be ready,
Each with his Lady, &c.

For there muſt be a Dance now and then by way of Exerciſe and Wit, or elſe I am ſure *Harlo Thrumbo* was in the wrong Box, as well as the old Ballad Woman, who gave you a Song and a Dance, and all for the Price of a Half-penny.

I have now by me two Squires and a Sir—who ſay I am mad to Write in this Manner, for they are Jealous I hint at them. One ſays to me, when did you ever find me ſtingy, I believe you have a mind to reflect on my Character? *A ſecond ſays,* when did I make away my Eſtate by my Gooſe Quills, the Parchment from my Sheeps Backs, and the Wax of my Bees? *And ſays the third,* And pray Sir, how can you cenſure me on any Account? Have not I treated you with many Bottles of Claret, and did not I laugh as loud as any one when we were at *Harlo Thrumbo* together? And then I dropt my Subject, as many noted Preachers do, and ſumm'd up the Matter in a few Words, *viz.*

Gentlemen,

If I have told you of your Sins, mend if you can for the future, let the Stingy be Generous, let the Generous be Wiſe, and let him who is between one and t'other keep his Claret to himſelf if he

he will, and laugh leſs, when there is nothing to be laugh'd at.

But then it is ſaid, Laugh and be Fat—— Which Words may be underſtood thus, if a Man has but a Subſiſtance, he can never have any great Occaſion to Laugh, and much leſs to be Fat; but if he has plenty of Provender, then the Proverb is right, *He may Laugh that Wins*, and be Fat into the Bargain.

FINIS.